

# POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

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*The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*

## Supported Decision-Making with Jonathan Martinis and Jessalyn Gustin

**An Equal Right to Make Choices: Supported Decision-Making: Jonathan Martinis and Jessalyn Gustin**



Supported Decision-Making training with Jonathan Martinis

## ***SC DD COUNCIL WELCOMES SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING EXPERTS***

During the spring, DD Council, Network partners (P & A & Center for Disability Resources) and others welcomed Jonathan Martinis and Jessalyn Gustin to South Carolina to discuss emerging issues about guardianship and long term supports for people with disabilities, specifically Supported Decision-Making. Martinis, Senior Director for Law and Policy at the Burton Blatt Institute and Project Director of the National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making, describes Supported Decision-Making (SDM) as “an alternative to guardianship that allows an individual with a disability to work with a team and make

his or her own choices about his or her own life. Under this model, the individual designates people to be part of a support network to help with decision-making.” SDM is important because, as the Center for Public Representation points out, “SDM promotes self-determination, control and autonomy. It fosters independence. Unlike substituted decision-making where guardians, family members or caregivers make decisions for the individual, supported decision-making enables the person to make his or her own decisions with assistance from a trusted network of supporters.”



Martinis and Gustin visited South Carolina to meet with state-level decision makers, professionals working with individuals with disabilities and their families, and self- and family- advocates to raise awareness about SDM, help analyze state systems of long term support, and provide tools for professionals working with families. The South Carolina visit included a broad SDM presentation, meeting with a statewide group serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, an Elder Law group, Able-SC, and advocacy leadership groups SC I.M.P.A.C.T. and SC Partners in Policymaking®.





Gustin's experience in professional, coordinated systems of care and support in the context of SDM was especially helpful to service providers who attended the statewide meeting at the SC Department of Health and Human Services, the State's Medicaid provider. In working directly with self-advocates, Martinis and Gustin led groups in making dream boards—an interactive, experiential way to visualize your goals and dreams. The exercise helped advocates find their confidence to speak up for themselves and share their personal visions for their life! They extended this concept within the Partners in Policymaking group to a policy level where the groups made dream boards at the systems level related to their policy projects.



DD Council member Kimberly Maple shares her dream board with IMPACT members.



Martinis and Gustin Meet with Able SC staff about Supported-Decision-Making and their DD Council grant project.



**Partners In Policymaking<sup>®</sup>** participants are excited about Supported Decision-Making and showcase their enthusiasm with Jonathan Martinis.





## 2017 Council Fiscal Connection Meeting

Council staff from six (6) states met for a Regional Fiscal Connection Networking Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 2nd and 3rd. Councils represented were Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Each Council presented an overview of how they do their work; manage their finances and staff and Council membership. A big thank you to the North Carolina Council for hosting the meeting. There were lots of questions and excellent discussions. We had a great opportunity to learn from each other. We would like to engage in additional meetings in the future. Information was shared with our Technical Assistance Director for possible webinar and training topics across all Councils.

### **Council Fiscal Connection Meeting: Things to consider moving forward:**

- More trainings (in person and webinars), i.e., OMB Circular
- How can we better deal with our staff resources?
- What are the pros and cons to become your own DSA?
- Staffing Supervision/Reporting
- Indirect Cost/Strategies to Negotiate Indirect Cost
- More clarification on Match requirements
- Include other states - discussed options
- Possible location for next meeting: Tennessee or Virginia

## Recipe for Success...



**DD Council's Grants Administrator, LaShannon Bethune (Third from the left) posed for a picture with Stall High School students and staff during a visit to the "Recipe for Success" grant site.**

Stall High School Students in Charleston School District are extremely proud of their accomplishments and are excited about their second year of operating their school bakery. Transition Coordinator and Project Director Sandy Whitlock recently shared that local Vocational Rehabilitation counselors are also impressed with the success of the bakery and have begun offering community-based job starts. This means that students are able to be paid at least minimum wage up to 120 hours for work at a community-based employer. As a result, Recipe for Success boasts an 80% employment rate for graduated students after six months!

The program began as an opportunity for students to learn cooking skills, but the students began to take ownership of the bakery and educators quickly realized the untapped potential and abilities. Sandy shared that the students completely lead the operation of the bakery including choosing what to bake and the sales schedule.



They were able to work out an agreement with school district officials to sell their products to faculty and staff at Stall High School and reinvest the profits back into the business. Sandy expects the business to be self-sustaining by the time Council funding ends in 2018. Educators stated the students come alive and are excited about "their" bakery. DD Council is extremely proud of the success and can brag about the proof of their success with the evidence of tasty banana bread!

# CONFERENCES .....

## THE POSITIVE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- Hopes and Dreams
- Mapping Your Future/Empowering Your Future
- Assistive Technology Expo



Attorney Peter W. D. Wright



Mapping Your Future Participants get excited!



Karen Irick, Joy Ivester, Valarie Bishop take a breather during registration at the Assistive Technology Expo.



Self-Advocates and Caregivers are focused on key concepts and the best ways to empower themselves.

## FAMILY CONNECTION...

### HOPES AND DREAMS



The 2017 Hopes and Dreams Conference was held at First Baptist Church of Lexington. The featured Keynote speaker was Attorney Peter W. D. Wright. The conference focused on Special Education Law and Advocacy. Wrightslaw Training gave participants a greater perspective of available services and the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Family Connection provided resource information, family support and education to families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs and to the professionals who serve them. The focus was to increase knowledge of available services for families and improve the professionals' ability to work with the families with children of all ages with various disabilities and with special long-term healthcare issues. A Reference Guide of these available services was provided to all participants. Conference goers stated having the guide while going through the conference was extremely helpful and a way to pinpoint their specific needs.

## Able South Carolina...

### Mapping Your Future/Empowering Your Future



Mapping Your Future and Empowering Your Future was held in Greenville, SC at Furman University's beautiful campus. The venue offered a relaxing environment for self-advocates families, caregivers and professionals working with young adults to learn about available resources and develop plans to make decisions that will enhance their future and the future of their clients. The conferences were intended to raise expectations, foster awareness of best practices and build critical skills.

Empowering Your Future was held for a full day on Friday and Mapping Your Future was held Saturday. Continued supporters of the conference are Able South Carolina, Transition Alliance of South Carolina, SC Department of Education, Family Connection of SC, Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.

## Center for Disability Resources... ... ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Assistive Technology Expo continues to bring in large crowds. The expo had out-grown its previous location and is now being held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Vendors demonstrate and share the latest updates in technology and provide information for participants. Participants are usually overwhelmed by the amount of information and services available and state they will be returning next year and bringing more people with them. Congratulations to Dr. Carol Page and her staff for the excellent services they provide.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

Disability Advocacy Day found new strength and as community partnerships and collaborations began to emerge the committee changed the name to reflect the efforts of every agency and organization involved in advocating for disability rights. The committee recognizes the efforts of everyone involved and realizes the entire “Village” works because of the commitment of every individual.



about coming together to advocate for disability rights. The DD Council staff continues to show support and encourage partners while increasing collaboration efforts. Thank you to everyone for an awesome day!

Spelling out “THANK YOU” was a special way to share with lawmakers the appreciation for their support over the past years. Crowds are engaged and excited

# advocacy day for Access & Independence



During Advocacy Day, participants made appointments with their legislators to discuss access and independence for people with disabilities. They encourage lawmakers to support advocacy and provide them with information needed to make informed decisions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other important issues.

## SC Visibility Project



The Brain Injury Association (BIASC) is a proud grantee of DDC. The BIASC is a nonprofit organization which was developed by persons with brain injury, their families, and concerned professionals in an effort to provide information and support to those who have experienced brain injury. Our mission is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy.

The BIASC operates a Community Supports Grant titled SC Visibility Project. The overall goal of this project is to improve access to information to people with developmental and related disabilities, including brain injuries, and their families about services, supports and their rights. An objective of this grant is to provide in-service training to multi-disciplinary staff that has contact with patients with brain injuries and their families. On March 24, 2017, we hosted a Lunch and Learn at Palmetto Health for hospital staff to come eat and learn! There were 50 people in attendance for this event! The training was led by Breanna Spaulding, Outreach Coordinator for the BIASC and Thomas Seastrunk, Board Member and TBI Survivor. This was a great event for the staff to learn more about the SC disability project in their hospital as well as it's affect in the community.



## Partners in Polycymaking® 20<sup>th</sup> Graduating Class



**Charlie Walters, Director of Transition from Able South Carolina, shared information and strategies to assist with transitioning.**

### Graduation Day Celebration!



**Class speakers and graduates gather for a photo.**

**Pictured left to right:** William “Will” Farrior; Program Coordinator, Cherolyn Allen, Valerie Pearce, Christina Robinson, Devonte Robinson, Glander Pressley, Amber Shelley, Chris Hardee, Dori Tempio; Able SC, Tammy Carter, Bernard Johnson, Sara Sharp; Able SC, Angela Greene, Partners' graduate, Richland County Councilman Jim Manning.

Not pictured: Carolyn Shaw



## GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER SIGNS PARENTING BILL



On May 11, 2017, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed House Bill 3538 which amended South Carolina Code to add a new chapter, the “Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act”. Able SC worked with partners including Department of Social Services (DSS) and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. to draft a bill which codified best practices for ensuring the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities.

The law requires the Department of Social Services, law enforcement, and the family and probate courts, among others, to protect the parenting rights of people with disabilities by establishing requirements and safeguards applicable in child custody, child protection and probate guardianship proceedings to ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied the right to parent or to have custody of or visitation with a child because of a disability; and to prohibit child placing agencies and adoption service providers from denying persons with a disability the right to access services because of the person’s disability. Additionally, the law prohibits termination of parental rights solely on the basis of a disability. Prior to this law passing, South Carolina had legislation allowing disability as the sole grounds for removing and terminating parent rights, even without evidence of abuse or neglect.

Supporters of the bill included sponsors, Representative James Smith and Senator Katrina Shealy, the General Assembly, The Department of Social Services, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc., The SC Developmental Disabilities Council, American Bar Association, The Disabled Parenting Project, National Council on Disability, Through the Looking Glass, and the many parents with disabilities who shared their stories and provided testimony.

DD Council at work...



Derrick Means, Phil Clarkson, Cheryl Allen, David Rotholz



Marion Taylor



Reyhan Miller, LaShannon Bethune



Joey Barefoot, Michele Barefoot, Cheryl Allen



Roger Kuperman, Valarie Bishop



Asha Purohit, Mary Ann DeBerry, Les Durham



(left) Daphanie Dean, Marion Taylor, Kimberly Maple, Janice Stewart

The DD Council works extremely hard to ensure its mission is carried out and properly executed.

**Message from the Director**



I continue to be amazed with all of the wonderful initiatives in South Carolina. The partnerships and collaborations are resulting in positive change. I am proud that our Council has been an integral part of many of these efforts.

We welcome three new grant programs and many that are moving into their 2nd or 3rd years. We say goodbye for now to some grantees but are encouraged that many of the initiatives will continue. This includes the Transition Alliance of South Carolina that will function under a contract with the South Carolina Department of Education. Kick it Karate is also continuing thanks to the folks at Capital Karate.

We are excited about the upcoming year with our grantees, collaborators and partners to positively impact the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

***Valarie Bishop***

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

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Ms. Cheryl Allen  
Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot  
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
Ms. Susan Beck  
Ms. Dianne S. Bennett  
Mr. Frank Bentley  
Ms. Kristy L. Caldwell**

**Mr. Philip Clarkson  
Ms. Daphanie Dean  
Ms. Mary Ann DeBerry  
Mr. Coy L. “Les” Durham, III  
Ms. Cassidy Evans  
Mrs. Connie Gallman  
Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin, Jr.  
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